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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) (First reading) - Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons = Statement

**Statement by Germany, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta, the Czech Republic, Poland
Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Finland, Ireland and the United Kingdom**

We note that the terms 'harmful organism' and 'pest' refer to the same concept in EU legal acts, and are used equivalently.

Reasoning:

Given that existing Commission legal acts and Council Regulations and Directives (e.g. Council Directive 93/85/EEC, Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Commission Implementing Decision 2012/138/EU) also use the term 'harmful organism' with the same meaning and in an equivalent manner, the fact that the terms 'pest' and 'harmful organism' are synonyms should be clearly emphasised, in order to preclude any uncertainty in the application of existing EU legal acts and the new EU Plant Health Regulation and the new Regulation for Official Controls.
